

MATHIES

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel without prejudice claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 14, and 15-35.

Please amend claims 1 and 9 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A liquid-handling system for transferring liquid back and forth from at least one first container to at least one second container, comprising:

a first container;

a second container;

a housing encasing [said] the first container in [an] a pressure-tight manner;

[a] at least two capillary [tube] tubes having predetermined length and a predetermined internal diameter, wherein a first end of [said] the tube is positioned near the bottom of [said] the first container, wherein [said] the tube extends through [said] the housing, terminating in a second end positioned at or above [said] the second container; and,

a computer-controlled pressure altering device, attached to the housing in a pressure tight manner, that changes the pressure within [said] the housing relative to the pressure outside the housing;

wherein the pressure-altering device applies a pressure differential that transfers liquids in either direction from a container having two or more capillaries.

9. (Twice Amended) The system as defined in claim 1, wherein [said] the capillary tube is constructed of a material selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polyethylene, polypropylene, polytetrafluoroethylene, polyester, [PEEK (polyethylenetherketone)] polyethylenetherketone, pulled glass, pulled glass with an external coating, and stainless steel [and other chemically nonreactive materials].

RECEIVED  
MAR - 5 2001  
10 1100 MAIL ROOM

MATHIES

Please add new claims 36 – 39 as follows:

--36. The system of claim 1, wherein the transfer is of two or more liquids to be mixed into a solution, wherein said solution is subsequently removed by an additional capillary.--

--37. A liquid-handling system for removal and loading of liquids from a container, the system comprising:

a first container, wherein the container is configured to include a plurality of reservoirs;

a housing encasing the first container in a pressure tight manner;

a first capillary tube having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the proximal end is positioned near the bottom of at least one of the reservoirs of the first container, the distal end is positioned near the bottom of at least one of the reservoirs of a second container, and the tube extends through the housing;

a second capillary tube having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the proximal end is positioned near the bottom of at least one of the reservoirs of the first container, the distal end is positioned near the bottom of at least one of the reservoirs of the second container, and the tube extends through the housing;

a computer-controlled pressure altering device, attached to the housing in a pressure tight manner, that changes the pressure within the housing relative to the pressure outside the housing;

wherein the pressure-altering device applies a pressure differential that deposits and removes liquids in the container in either direction through the capillary tubes.--

--38. The system as recited in claim 37 wherein the pressure-altering device applies a pressure differential that transfers liquid through only the first capillary tube.--

## MATHIES

--39. The system as recited in claim 37 wherein the pressure-altering device applies a pressure differential that transfers liquid simultaneously through the first and second capillary tubes.--

--40. A liquid-handling system for removal and loading of liquids from a container, the system comprising:

a first container, wherein the container is configured to include a plurality of reservoirs;

a housing encasing the first container in a pressure tight manner;

a first capillary tube having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the proximal end is positioned near the bottom of at least one of the reservoirs of the first container, the distal end is positioned near the bottom of at least one of the reservoirs of a second container, and the tube extends through the housing;

a second capillary tube having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the proximal end is positioned near the bottom of at least one of the reservoirs of the first container, the distal end is positioned near the bottom of at least one of the reservoirs of the second container, and the tube extends through the housing;

a computer-controlled pressure altering device, attached to the housing in a pressure tight manner, that changes the pressure within the housing relative to the pressure outside the housing;

wherein the pressure-altering device applies a pressure differential that deposits and removes liquids in the container in either direction through the capillary tubes; depositing and removing solutions in either direction from a reservoir having at least two capillaries, including the deposit of two or more solutions to be mixed and removal of a resulting mixture by an additional capillary.--